

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-66. (Cancelled)

67. (New) A method for suppressing bacterial growth in a blood fraction, comprising
- (a) providing a blood fraction containing platelet concentrate;
  - (b) leuko-reducing the platelet concentrate in said blood fraction to form a prestorage leuko-reduced platelet concentrate; and
  - (c) adding to said blood fraction a compound selected from the group consisting of L-carnitine and salts of L-carnitine in an amount effective to suppress bacterial growth in said blood fraction;

wherein said method comprises suspending said prestorage leuko-reduced platelet concentrate in a support solution which comprises said compound in a concentration of 0.25 to 50 mM,

and wherein said prestorage leuko-reduced platelet concentrate may be effectively stored for up to 8 days.

68. (New) The method of claim 67, wherein said compound is comprised in a support solution in a concentration of 1 to 30 mM.

69. (New) The method of claim 67, further comprising adding to said blood fraction a compound selected from the group consisting of acetyl-L-carnitine, propionyl L-carnitine, butyryl L-carnitine, isobutyryl L-carnitine, valeryl L-carnitine, and isovaleryl L-carnitine.